Anger, resignation greet future closings in Chicago

CHICAGO (CNS) - Parishioners affected by the impending closing of some parishes and schools in various neighborhoods of the Archdiocese of Chicago reacted both with anger and with a sense of resignation.

In interviews with The New World, archdiocesan newspaper, parishioners reacted to Chicago Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin's Jan. 21 announcement that he would close or merge about 40 Catholic institutions. He also announced other financial moves to boost archdiocesan, school and parish revenues by \$30 million a year.

"I hate to tell you," said Mary Janis, 49, a member of Immaculate Conception Church in the Bridgeport neighborhood, "(but) if they close down this parish, I'm not going to another church."

"You wish that would not happen," said James Lyons of St. Anastasia Parish in suburban Waukegan. "But you also wish death would not happen. Ultimately, you have to ask, does God live in a building or

Thirteen parishes, two missions and six elementary schools are scheduled to close by June 30. More than 20 additional parishes could be dropped from archdiocesan listings through closing or merger in 1990 or 1991, most of them by the middle of this

The two archdiocesan high school seminaries are to be merged, and central programs and administration are to be cut by \$1.8 million.

Pastors of eight parishes in the Back of the Yards — so named because the neighborhood is near the stockyards held a meeting attended by some 500 people: Four of the parishes, St. Augustine, Ss. Cyril and Methodius —which has only 54 regular worshipers — St. Rose of Lima and Sacred Heart of Jesus, will close by June 30. Sacred Heart's school also will close in June.

In addition, the \$180,000 archdiocesan subsidy to St. Joseph Parish High School will be halved in 1990-91 and eliminated the following year.

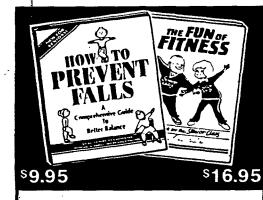
"We got spoiled," said Al Gonzales of



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Sacred Heart of Jesus, noting that the eight parishes were within a radius of 20 blocks. Many of those were ethnic or national parishes, founded when the stockyards fed the Midwest.

"I believe it is incompetence to close Sacred Heart," said usher Frank Zagada, adding that "it's a sound parish" with about 700 parishioners.

Angelo Cordova of St. Rose, who is studying for the permanent diaconate, said he was "shocked and surprised" by the news because the parish was not subsidized.

On Chicago's south side, Holy Cross Church, a black parish with 200 parishioners, and its school are to be combined with the school and church of St. Clara-St. Cyril by June 30 and be renamed. Holy Cross, however, still plans to celebrate its 100th anniversary next October, according to its pastor, Father Ed-

"It's hard, when you are older, to accept changes," said Margaret Frazier, who has lived in the parish for 40 years.

Flo Vance said she believed the archdiocese had not studied the black community sufficiently and that the



Protesters gathered outside Cardinal Joseph Bernardin's residence Sunday. Jan. 21, to oppose the closing of Quigley South preparatory seminary in

parishioners should have been forewarned.

"The cardinal doesn't have the right to close our church," said another woman at Holy Cross who would not reveal her name. "No one should tell us we can't fight back. Why can't we say no?""

But Holy Cross teacher Regina Johnson said, "We will not give up. We will walk through this and keep the faith."

The announced merger of Quigley

Preparatory Seminary South with Quigley North met with vocal opposition. When a new facility is established, Quigley North will close.

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A recent meeting at Quigley South was followed by a protest outside Cardinal Bernardin's residence. Archdiocesan officials said the decision to close Quigley South and eventually Quigley North was

Bishop: Cuomo risks going to hell for abortion view

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh **Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON - New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, a Catholic, "seriously risks going to hell" for advocating abortion rights, Auxiliary Bishop Austin B. Vaughan of New York said Jan. 23.

Bishop Vaughan took issue with the governor in newspaper interviews from jail in Albany, where he served 10 days of a 15day sentence for civil disobedience associated with anti-abortion activities.

In reaction the same day, Cuomo said that his position — personal opposition to abortion but support of a woman's legal right to choose it —is not inconsistent with Catholic theology because it was his duty to "to apply the law evenly" to all.

Cuomo also said he upheld the bishop's "right to curse at politicians." He made

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his remarks in New York City in answer to reporters who sought his reaction to the bishop's criticism.

In a telephone interview Jan. 24 after he was released from jail, Bishop Vaughan said he did not curse the governor, and defined cursing as calling down evil upon another.

"I have no right to do that," he said. "God is the only one ultimately who can judge." In criticizing the governor, he said, he was meeting his "obligation as a shepherd" to "warn someone of his wickedness."

The governor's "pro-death position" is serious, given his "position of serious responsibility," Bishop Vaughan said.

"The governor hasn't addressed the issue of whether or not they're killing babies" when he defends "choice," said Bishop Vaughan. "The governor never takes that up," he said. "He talks around it all the time.'

Bishop Vaughan said he was stating Catholic teaching when he told The New York Times that he did not believe the governor could be "a good and faithful Catholic" with his public support for abor-



Mario Cuomo New York Gov. gestures in response to questions about Bishop Austin Vaughan's comments.

tion.

"If he accepts as a Catholic that we are dealing with human beings, then this is a matter of human rights," he said.

Abortion is legal, said Cuomo, who supports Medicaid-funded abortions, and added that it was his job "to apply the law evenly" to all.

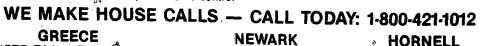
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